Marissa and Kelly

What does the Student need to do that is difficult or impossible to do independently at this time?

Bryan is having trouble relating to his peers. His social relationships are suffering because of his inability to speak casually with his peers. He can’t communicate without his electronic communication device but finds it awkward in social situations. He would like to find a different method to communicate casually with his friends.

What supports are available to the student?

Bryan has a powered wheel chair and an electronic communication device. These supports help him communicate and get from place to place. He also has a laptop computer with a trackball and an onscreen keyboard to do his written work. These assistive technology devices allow him to succeed at school but seem to be hindering his social relationships.

What naturally occurring activities take place in the environment?

Bryan is getting older and now wishes to be able to participate in casual conversation with his friends. Conversation is occurring naturally in the hallways and after school and he wants to be able to communicate naturally with people his age. He feels his communication device is a barrier to informal interactions among peers. He also feels isolated from his peers because he spends so much time with adults throughout the school day.

What is everyone else doing?

Bryan’s peers are able to communicate verbally, without assistive technology. They are able to talk to each other more often and without difficulty.

How might technology support the student's active participation in those activities?

Bryan is thankful for his electronic device because he knows it is the best and very expensive. However, he feels it is not helping. Bryan’s teachers need to look into what other kinds of technology exist that might allow Bryan to communicate better with his peers.

What strategies might be used to invite increased student performance?

Bryan already wants to communicate with his peers. A different kind of technology may be necessary to allow this to occur. Bryan’s friend, Michael, has notice Bryan withdraw from social situations. Michael wants to find a way for Bryan to communicate with more independence. A less bulky piece of technology might make Bryan’s social interactions less awkward and more relaxed.

How might these tools be tried out with the student in the customary environments in which they will be used?

If Bryan’s teachers are able to find a different communication device for Bryan to use, he will need to try it out and see if it works better. He might still use the existing communication device during class and the new device during other times of the day that offer opportunities for social interaction between Bryan and his peers.